

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03353 070849Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W
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P R 070750Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 786
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3353

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJ: OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATES AS FRONTIER ASSEMBLY OPENS

1. OPPOSITION CALLS FOR LARGE MARCHES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN PESHAWAR MARCH 6 TO MARK OPENING OF "FRAUDULENT" PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MET WITH LIMITED SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO CONSULATE PESHAWAR, NEWSPAPER REPORTS, AND VARIOUS EYE-WITNESSES, PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE MANAGED TO ORGANIZE THREE SEPARATE PROCESSIONS, ONE BY PNA WORKERS, SECOND BY STUDENTS, AND THIRD BY LAWYERS.

2. PNA WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS MARCHED FROM CITY TO ROAD NEAR ASSEMBLY BUILDING MORNING MARCH 6 WHERE THEY WERE ADDRESSED BY SEVERAL PNA SPEAKERS. PROCESSION THEN MARCHED TOWARD CANTONMENT AREA WHERE POLICE USED LATHI CHARGE AND TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE MARCHERS. A NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SEPARATE PROCESSION TRIED TO MARCH FROM PESHAWAR UNIVERSITY
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03353 070849Z

TO ASSEMBLY BUILDING BUT WERE STOPPED BY POLICE WHO USED LATHI CHARGE AND TEAR GAS. APPROXIMATELY 100 LAWYERS HELD PROCESSION IN THE OLD CITY WHICH WAS QUICKLY AND PEACEFULLY DISPERSED BY THE POLICE.

3. ACCORDING TO A CONSULATE LOCAL WHO WAS AT THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING, NO ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WERE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING

THE BUILDING, THE OATH-TAKING PROCEEDED AS PLANNED, AND POLICE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE KEPT ALL DEMONSTRATORS AWAY FROM ASSEMBLY HALL. NEARLY ALL SHOPS IN THE NEW AND OLD CITIES WERE OPEN.

5. THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES WERE NOTABLE BECAUSE THEY WERE FIRST IMPORTANT ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN PESHAWAR CITY SINCE THE ELECTION AND BECAUSE STUDENTS TOOK PART. HOWEVER, THE ASSEMBLY WAS NOT DISRUPTED, THE CITY REMAINED OPEN, AND THE POLICE AND FSF WERE EASILY ABLE TO HANDLE ANY THREATS TO LAW AND ORDER POSED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. LIKE MANY OF THE PNA/GOVERNMENT CONFRONTATIONS OVER THE PAST FOUR WEEKS, APRIL 6 IN PESHAWAR WAS INCONCLUSIVE.

6. THE OPPOSITION SEEMS TO BE PLACING GREATER IMPORTANCE ON THEIR PLANS TO DISRUPT OPENING OF PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 9. CONGEN LAHORE WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO DEPARTMENT ON EVENTS IN THAT CITY ON SATURDAY.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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